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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/863,379	05/24/2001	Loris Massarotto	34517/GM/1p	9519

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Via Meravigli, 16
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ITALY

EXAMINER

KUHNS, ALLAN R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1732

DATE MAILED: 01/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/863,379

Applicant(s)

MASSAROTTO, LORIS

Examiner

Allan Kuhns

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10-14 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 10/15/01
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

1.Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, claims 1-9 in Paper No. 11/25/03 is acknowledged.

2.Claims 10-14 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 11/25/03.

3.Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. These claims are indefinite because "said remaining components" on the next-to-last line of claim 1 lacks antecedent basis within the claims. Clarification is required.

4.The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5.Claims 1-5 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Friedrichs et al. in view of Schulte et al. Friedrichs et al. disclose the basic claimed method for production of expanded plastic material including providing an apparatus for production of expanded plastic material which includes a pouring channel, two injection assemblies, a high pressure pump (note the operation at up to 20 bar disclosed at column 3, line 40), and a mixing head, and conducting a pouring step, in which at least one reaction component and a mixture of remaining components for obtaining the

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expandable plastic material are introduced at high pressure by way of the two injection assemblies. The mixture is provided downstream of the high pressure pump.

Friedrichs et al. teach or suggest a pouring hold step and a recirculation step during which components of the mixture are individually recirculated by disclosing the action of sealing piston 20 which connects inlets 11 and 12 individually with recirculation pipes 24 and 25 (column 4, lines 63-67). Friedrichs et al. appear not to state that such mixing devices are suitable for continuous operation, but Shulte et al. , at column 3, lines 44-48, teach that continuous operation is suitable when appropriate control facilities are present. It would therefore have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to operate the apparatus of Friedrichs et al. on a continuous basis whenever suitable control facilities are present in order to make an indefinite length article. Stating that panels are to be produced is essentially only a statement of an intended use for the article molded.

Friedrichs et al. teach reaction components of isocyanate and polyol mixed with a blowing agent or gas, as in claim 2, at column 3, lines 53-59 and the inclusion of catalyst is well known and would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in order to promote the desired reaction. Friedrichs et al. teach or suggest the delivery branches, mixer, and transition steps of claims 3-5 and 8-9. Providing a polyol storage tank with recirculation, as in claim 7, is well known and such would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in order to contain a key reactant.

6.Claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7.Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allan Kuhns whose telephone number is (571) 272-1202. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 7:00 to 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Colaiani, can be reached on (571) 272-1196.

Allan R. Kuhns
ALLAN R. KUHNS
PRIMARY EXAMINER AU 1732
1-6-04